

In response to the restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group II directed to claims 7-20 drawn to the method for fabricating a semiconductor device, for prosecution in connection with the present application. Please note that newly added claims 21-32 are directed to a method of fabricating a semiconductor device.

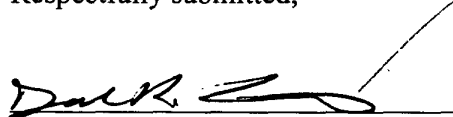
Moreover, in response to the Species Election, Applicants hereby elect Species I as shown in FIGs. 1A-1E. Claims covering Species I are claims 22 and 24-27 wherein at least claim 22 is generic to all species.

Examination on the merits of the claims and an indication of their allowability over the prior art record is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,


Donald R. Studebaker
Registration No. 32,815

NIXON PEABODY LLP
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 790-9110

DRS/TAV:gjc